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League of Women Voters of the Huntington  
Area Bulletin 1990-1999

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11-1997

### LWV Bulletin, November, 1997

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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November, 1997

LWVWV WEB SITE

<http://Access.mountain.net/~mhalley/LWVWV.htm>

## FLOODS IN OUR AREA: HOW TO REDUCE THEIR IMPACT

Speakers for the Huntington League's November 17 meeting will be Ed Copeland, Region II Planning and Development Council and George McClennen, Director of Public Works, Huntington. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. The public is invited.

West Virginia has experienced a number of floods in the past few years. Land practices make an impact on increasing the level of floods and the damage to people and their property. Ed Copeland worked in the flooded areas and has first hand knowledge of the problems. He will bring to us ideas on how we can prevent the severe flooding problems which West Virginians experience.

George McClennen will speak specifically to Huntington's flooding problems. In addition, we will hear about Huntington's neighborhood meetings which are planned to find out what infrastructure improvements are needed and how to solve the problems. Certainly flooding falls within this realm.

## SURFACE MINING

The Charleston Area League is sponsoring a program on surface mining on November 18. Contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287, if you would like to carpool to Charleston for this meeting.

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS FLYER

**Corrections** - Add (R) to Milton Mayor Townsend; Change to (D) on Recorder Sargent.

Changes since publication - Park Board: Delete Jack Mease; add Raymond Busbee.

## FINANCE DRIVE

Virginia Hensley sent out letters asking for donations to the League. Annually, instead of fundraising events to support the work of the League, we send this letter. We appreciate donations from League members too. If you would like to make a donation, send it to Ann Speer, 706 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701. If you wish for your donation to be tax deductible, the check must be made out to the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE UPDATE

Campaign Finance Reform is the major issue which the League of Women Voters of the U. S. is promoting. The League is working for incremental reform -- legislation that closes the soft money and issue advocacy loopholes and strengthens enforcement.

In October, Senators Byrd and Rockefeller both voted for cloture, but there were not enough votes to stop filibustering Campaign Finance reform. Cloture is a vote to end a filibuster, and it requires 60 votes. Just recently, Trent Lott announced an agreement for votes by March on campaign finance legislation. If you would like to encourage friends or relatives in other states to contact their Senators on this most important issue, contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287, for more information.

Efforts in the House of Representatives are now targeted to ask Representatives to sign a discharge petition. (see related article on back)

## Use Less Stuff

The third annual **USE LESS STUFF DAY** is scheduled for November 20. In 1970, we sent 113 millions tons of trash to landfills. Today we send over 150 tons, even though our recycling rate has increased from 7% to 27% over the same period. When we generate so much waste, we also use up resources and energy. Conservation would go a long way towards limiting the green house gases which are causing climate changes.

To put this in perspective consider this: annual trash from gift wrap and shopping bags totals about 4 million tons; 3rd class mail adds another 4.4 million tons to mail bags and, ultimately to garbage bags and holiday waste will add an additional 5 million tons of trash to U. S. landfills. **USE LESS STUFF!!**

## TIP . . .

If you are recycling junk mail, do not include sticky notes. They gum up the works!

## Tell it to Washington

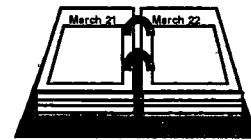
If you want to influence your members of Congress on the issues that matter most to you, you need to know how to do it. The LWV's Education Fund has published a guide for citizen action called **TELL IT TO WASHINGTON**. It includes a Congressional directory and explains how to communicate effectively with your elected officials--by phone, letter, fax, e-mail or in person. If you are interested in this informative guide, contact Nancy Taylor at 522-3361.

## Campaign Finance in WV

A new drive for campaign finance reform in West Virginia was fueled by a draft report of P.E.R.C. (the People's Election Reform Coalition) formed by WVCAG (citizen's action), OVEC (Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition) and Common Cause West Virginia at a meeting, November 1 at Jackson's Mill. The P. E. R. C. report titled "This may not be illegal . . . but it should be" - an analysis of fund raising by 1996 West Virginia State Senate winners will be followed by reports on the 1996 House races and the Governor's race. Among other items of interest, the report showed \$870,066 given by special interests to 1996 Senate winners. And, \$960,400 given by special interests to finance the West Virginia Governor's inaugural after the campaign was over. The highest percentage for the inaugural, 26% of the total, or \$253,850 was given by coal interests.

Over 50 people representing a broad spectrum of progressive groups were present including environmentalists, labor representatives, women's groups, health care and religious leaders. All present endorsed the decision to take on the challenge of cleaning up the flow of special interest money to political candidates in West Virginia. Other organizations and individuals are encouraged to join the P.E.R.C. coalition. For further information, contact Janet Fout at 522-0246;

Also present at the meeting was Secretary of State Ken Hechler who explained 2 new cases in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals which challenge the Supreme Court's 1976 decision in Buckley v. Valeo. That decision declared that limits on campaign spending violated 1st amendment freedom of speech protection. Officials in 33 states, including West Virginia's Attorney General and Secretary of State, have filed briefs in support of reversing the Buckley v. Valeo decision. And, however the Circuit Court of Appeals rules, it will almost certainly be appealed to the Supreme Court, thus paving the way for a re-argument of Buckley v. Valeo. (submitted by Elinor Taylor)



**11/10/97** LWVWV State Board Meeting,  
Parkersburg, WV.

**11/17/97** LWV Huntington Area monthly  
meeting, 7:30 p.m., Enslow Park Presbyterian  
Church. (See story on front)

**11/24/97** LWV Huntington Area Board  
Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Beverly Hills Presbyterian  
Church.

**11/20/97** ULS (Use Less Stuff) Day,  
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

**12/8/97** LWV Huntington Area monthly  
meeting, 7:30 p.m. Joyce Levy's, 699 13th Ave.,  
1998 legislative agenda.

*... Democracy is a promise that we make with our government. The government promises to represent the citizens, who, in turn, promise to participate.*

*Participation means voting. In a healthy democracy, it also means engaging in the struggle to find the common good.*

*In this era of rising cynicism and apathy, we need to ask-are we upholding our part of the bargain?*

*Fewer than 49.4% of eligible Americans voted in the 1996 presidential election. MORE THAN HALF of the eligible voters chose not to fulfill their part of the democratic bargain. . . (excerpt from LWVUS President Becky Cain's column in THE NATIONAL VOTER, June/July, 1997)*

The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$35 individual, \$50 for two in one household.

To join, send your check to : Ann Speer, Treasurer,  
706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

**LWV** Huntington Area

**BULLETIN**

Sally K. Adkins, Editor

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